THE PRINCIPAL

# ACTS

OF THE

# General Assembly

OF THE

# CHURCH

OF

# SCOTLAND.

Convened at EDINBURGH, the 23d Day of *May* 1782.

*Collected and extracted from the Records by the Clerks thereof.*

*EDINBURGH:*

Printed by JAMES DICKSON, Printer to the Church of *Scotland.*

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Begun at *Edinburgh* the 23d Day of *May* 1782, and concluded the 3d *June*, said year.

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## I.

## The King's Commission to GEORGE Earl of DALHOUSIE produced, and ordered to be recorded.

*Edinburgh, May* 23, 1782.

THE General Assembly of this National Church being convened and constituted, there was produced to them, by the Right Honourable GEORGE Earl of DALHOUSIE, the King's Commission, sealed with the Seal appointed by the treaty of Union to be kept and used in *Scotland*, in place of the Great

Great Seal of *Scotland*, making and conſtituting him his Majeſty's High Commiſſioner and Repreſentative in this Aſſembly; which commiſſion was publicly read with all due honour and reſpect, and ordered to be recorded in the books of Aſſembly. The tenor whereof follows:

GEORGIUS, *Dei gratia, Magnæ Britanniæ, Franciæ, et Hiberniæ Rex, Fidei Defenſor: Omnibus probis hominibus, ad quos præſentes literæ noſtræ pervenerint, ſalutem. Quandoquidem nos conſiderantes, quod generalis eccleſiæ Scotiæ conventus in vigeſimum tertium diem Maii inſtantis convenire ordinatus fuit; noſque etiam abunde cupidi, quinetiam neceſſarium eſſe judicantes in commodum dictæ eccleſiæ, ut idem generalis eccleſiæ conventus, die ſtatuto debite obſervetur, atque rebus magni momenti nos alio vocantibus, dicto conventui perſonaliter intereſſe nequimus; noſque abunde ſatisfacti de fidelitate et ſufficientia fideliſſimi et dilectiſſimi noſtri conſanguinei,* Georgii Comitis de Dalhouſie, *quod ad ſummum munus rite exercendum et obeundum uſquequaque ſit inſtructus: Noveritis igitur, nos nominaſſe, conſtituiſſe, et ordinaſſe, ſicuti nos, tenore præſentium, nominamus, conſtituimus, et ordinamus, memoratum fideliſſimum et prædilectiſſimum noſtrum conſanguineum* Georgium Comitem de Dalhouſie, *ſupremum noſtrum Commiſſionarium dicto generali eccleſiæ conventui Scotiæ, dando et concedendo illi plenam noſtram poteſtatem, commiſſionem, et warrantum, ſacram noſtram perſonam et authoritatem regalem repreſentandi, nec non preſentiam noſtram ſupplendi, et locum noſtrum in dicto ſubſequente generali conventu, tanquam Commiſſionario noſtro ad hunc effectum ſpecialiter conſtituto, tenendi, omniaque alia ad imperium et munus Commiſſionarii pro generali eccleſiæ conventu peragendi, tam plene, adeoque libere in quovis reſpectu, quam quilibet alius in eodem ſummo munere fecerat, ſeu quovis tempore præterito facere potuerat, vel ac ſi nos ipſi perſonaliter preſentes facere potuerimus. Quæque omnia et ſingula antedictus* Georgius Comes de Dalhouſie, *in hac noſtra commiſſione proſequenda legitime fecerit, ſeu fieri ordinaverit nos firmiter approbamus, et habituri ſumus. Omnibus et ſingulis inſuper dictæ eccleſiæ paſtoribus, et preſbyteris, cæteriſque quibuſcunque intra illam partem Magnæ Britanniæ Scotiam vocatam, ſubditis noſtris, cujuſcunque gradus ſeu qualitatis, ut dictum* Georgium Comitem de Dalhouſie, *tanquam ſupremum noſtrum Commiſſionarium, quoad effectum et modum ſupra mentionatum revereantur, agnoſcant, et dict. ipſius*

*audientes se præbeant, stricte mandamus et imperamus: Atque hanc nostram commissionem, a dicto vigesimo tertio die Maii instantis incipere, et deinceps hac subsequend. sessione dicti generalis conventus, in vigore continuare declaramus, vel usque dum a nobis revocabitur, et exonerabitur. In cujus rei testimonium presentibus, sigillum nostrum per Unionis tractatum custodiend. et in Scotia, vice et loco Magni Sigilli ejusdem utend. ordinat. appendi mandavimus; apud aulam nostram apud St James's, decimo tertio die mensis Maii, anno Domini millesimo septingentisimo et octogesimo-secundo, regnique nostri anno vigesimo-secundo. Per signaturam manu S. D. N. regis subscript.*

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every thing that may tend to diſturb that harmony and tranquillity which is ſo eſſential in councils ſolely calculated for the ſuppreſſion of every ſpecies of licentiouſneſs, irreligion, and vice; and as we have the firmeſt reliance on your zeal, in the ſupport of the Chriſtian faith, as well as on the wiſdom and prudence of your councils, we are thoroughly aſſured that they will be directed to ſuch purpoſes as may beſt tend to enforce a conſcientious obſervance of all thoſe duties which the true religion and laws of thoſe kingdoms require, and on which the felicity of every individual ſo eſſentially depends.

Having already had repeated proofs of the fidelity, zeal, and attachment of our right truſty and right well-beloved couſin George Earl of Dalhouſie, we have again made choice of him to repreſent our Royal Perſon in this Aſſembly; and as you have ſo often had experience of his affection for you, and of his conſtant attention to the true intereſts of his country, we are perſuaded that this nomination will be conſidered by you as a freſh mark of our favour. You may be aſſured that the Preſbyterian Church of Scotland, as by law eſtabliſhed, will always meet with our ſupport in the full enjoyment of their rights and privileges; and we are convinced, that the ſame wiſe conduct which has ſo often manifeſted itſelf in your former meetings, will be exerted on the preſent occaſion; and that cordiality, unanimity, and brotherly love will attend all your proceedings, and be the means of ſecuring a happy and ſatisfactory concluſion of this preſent meeting of the General Aſſembly: And ſo we bid you heartily farewel.

Given at our Court at St James's, the 13th day of May 1782, in the twenty-ſecond year of our reign.

By his Majeſty's command,

SHELBURNE.

The

## III.

# The General Assembly's Answer to the King's most gracious Letter.

*May it please your Majesty*,

YOUR Majesty's most gracious letter was received by us with all that respect and gratitude due to so signal an expression of your Royal favour.

It was the more acceptable to us, that it contained your Majesty's approbation of the conduct of former Assemblies, which we consider as a most animating motive to us to emulate them in that loyalty and affection for your Majesty's person and government, and in those zealous endeavours for the advancement and encouragement of piety and virtue (so essential to the prosperity and welfare of every people), which have procured so distinguished an honour to them, and your Royal countenance to our present meeting.

Encouraged by these favourable sentiments your Majesty is pleased to entertain of our zeal in support of the Christian faith, and by that confidence you are pleased to put in the wisdom and prudence of our councils, it shall be our chief aim to direct them to the great objects your Majesty so earnestly recommends, by pursuing such measures as are best calculated for the suppression of every species of licentiousness, irreligion, and vice, and enforcing a conscientious observance of all those duties which our Holy Religion and the Laws require; and we account it our great happiness, that, by acting suitably to our character as the Servants of God and Ministers of Christ, we do most effectually recommend ourselves to your Majesty's favour and protection.

We

We account it no ſmall proof of your Majeſty's affectionate regard to the Church of Scotland, that you have been pleaſed to convey theſe marks of your Royal favour to us by the Earl of Dalhouſie, your Majeſty's Lord High Commiſſioner to this General Aſſembly. The long experience we have had of that Noble Lord's great abilities to diſcharge the duties of that high ſtation, of his loyalty to your Majeſty, and zeal for your ſervice, of his love to his country, and affectionate attachment to this National Church, have endeared him ſo much to this Aſſembly, that we participate with joy in this freſh mark of honour your Majeſty has been pleaſed to confer upon him.

Your Majeſty's donation, of One Thouſand Pounds, we accept with all gratitude, as a repeated proof of your Majeſty's paternal concern for the ſpiritual as well as temporal intereſts of your people, even in the moſt remote and uncultivated parts of your kingdoms; and it ſhall be our ſtudy to apply it in ſuch a manner as may moſt effectually promote the pious and benevolent purpoſes of the Royal donor.

Upon your Majeſty's renewed aſſurances of ſupport to the Church of Scotland, as by law eſtabliſhed, in the full poſſeſſion of all her rights and privileges, we rely with that entire confidence which is due from ſubjects to a Sovereign, who makes the laws of his kingdom the rule of his government; and we conſider them as a moſt powerful encouragement to us to conduct our meaſures with that cordiality, brotherly love, and unanimity, which are ſo becoming in the Miniſters of the Goſpel of Peace, and will ſecure to us the continuance of your Majeſty's favour and protection.

That Almighty God, by whom Kings reign, may protect your Majeſty's perſon, guide your councils, and proſper your arms; that he may crown with ſucceſs all your Majeſty's endeavours to put an end to the calamities of war, and reſtore to theſe kingdoms the bleſſings of an honourable peace, upon a ſure, ſolid, and laſting foundation; that he may bleſs our gracious Queen, the Prince of Wales, and all the branches of your illuſtrious family; and that, after a long and proſperous reign on earth,

earth, you may receive, through Jesus Christ our Lord, an unfading crown of righteousness, are the prayers of,

May it please your Majesty,
Your Majesty's most faithful,
Most obedient,
And most loyal subjects,
The Ministers and Elders met in this National Assembly of the Church of Scotland.

Signed in our name,
In our presence,
And at our appointment, by

JOS. M'CORMICK, *Moderator.*

## IV.

## The General Assembly's Address to his Majesty, on the present situation of public affairs.

*May it please your Majesty,*

WE your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Ministers and Elders of the Church of Scotland, met in national Assembly, beg leave to embrace this first opportunity of approaching the throne, with our respectful congratulations, upon the success with which it hath pleased Almighty God to crown your Majesty's arms.

Convinced that we owe our existence and protection, as a national Church, to the stability of that Government under which we live, we take a warm interest in the train of striking events, which, in the course of Divine Providence, we have been called to behold; and it is our constant study to cherish and diffuse sentiments of loyalty amongst the people with whom we are connect-

ed. With the heart-felt ſatisfaction natural to ſubjects of a free ſtate, we have heard of the important advantages lately gained by your Majeſty arms in Europe, in Aſia, and in America. We admire the gallantry and good conduct diſplayed by the commanders employed in your Majeſty's ſervice, both at home and abroad, by which the deſigns of your combined enemies againſt ſome of our moſt valuable ſettlements have been, in a great meaſure, defeated. Relying upon the wiſdom and vigour of your Majeſty's councils, we look forward with the moſt pleaſing hopes to the ſalutary conſequences of the glorious victory obtained in the Weſt Indies; and we lift our ſouls in devout and thankful acknowledgments to the Lord of Hoſts.

That the bleſſing of heaven may continue to attend your Majeſty's councils; that your enemies, feeling in every quarter of the globe the force of the Britiſh arms, may be diſpoſed to liſten to reaſonable terms of accommodation; that he who ruleth in the kingdoms of men, who gives to the ſword its charge, and who alone can command it to return to its ſcabbard, may enable your Majeſty ſpeedily to accompliſh the paternal wiſh of your Royal breaſt, by reſtoring to your people the bleſſings of an honourable and laſting peace; that you may long ſway the ſceptre over an united, grateful, and happy people; and that the Crown may deſcend with undiminiſhed ſplendour, through your illuſtrious family, to the lateſt generations, are the daily and earneſt prayers of,

May it pleaſe your Majeſty,
Your Majeſty's moſt faithful,
Moſt obedient,
And moſt loyal ſubjects,
The Miniſters and Elders met in this National
Aſſembly of the Church of Scotland.

Signed in our name,
In our preſence,
And at our appointment, by

JOS. M'CORMICK, *Moderator.*

Commiſſion

## V.

## Commission to some Ministers and Ruling Elders, for the Reformation of the Highlands and Islands of Scotland, and for managing his Majesty's Royal Bounty for that end.

THE General Assembly did, and hereby do, nominate and appoint the Reverend Dr Joseph M'Cormick, minister of the gospel at Prestonpans, their Moderator, all the ministers who are members of the prebytery of Edinburgh, Mr Alexander Fraser at Kilmalie, Mr Donald M'Queen at Kilmuir, Mr Alexander M'Kay at Barvas, Mr George M'Culloch at Loth, Mr Alexander Falconer at Edrachilles, Mr William Sutherland at Wick, Mr James Alison at Holm, Mr George Ellis at Carridden, Mr John M'Call at Symington, Mr Alexander Adams at Traquair, Mr Thomas M'Courtney at Pennycuick, Mr Matthew Murray at North Berwick, Dr Robert Bowmaker at Dunse, Dr Walter Anderson at Chirnside, Mr Cornelius Lundie at Kelso, Mr Robert Deans at Crailing, Dr Alexander Duncan at Smelholm, Mr William Campbell at Lilliesleaf, Mr James Smeal at Dornock, Mr John Dickie at Langholm, Dr John Walker at Moffat, Mr William Keyden at Penpont, Mr Bryce Johnston at Holywood, Dr David Lamont at Kirkpatrick Durham, Mr David Forbes at Borgue, Mr James M'Culloch at Kirkholm, Mr Patrick Wodrow at Torbolton, Dr William Dalrymple at Ayr, Mr Henry Graham at Combray, Mr Colin Campbell at Renfrew, Mr John Snodgrass at Paisley, Mr James Muirhead at Stenhouse, Mr William M'Cubban at Douglas, Dr John Gillies at Glasgow, Mr William Porteous there, Mr James Graham at Killearn, Mr John Melvil at Dunoon, Mr Robert Thomson at Killean, Mr John Smith at Campbelton, Mr Paul Fraser at Craignish, Mr Joseph M'Intyre at Glenorchy, Mr Dugal Campbell at Kilfinichen,

Mr

Mr Adam Ferguſon at Moulin, Mr Robert Williamſon at Lethindy, Mr Harry Inglis at Forteviot, Mr Alexander Duff at Tippermuir, Mr James Frame at Alloa, Mr Robert Stirling at Crieff, Mr James Smith at Kilmadock, Mr Andrew Richardſon at Inverkeithing, Profeſſor George Hill at St Andrew's, Mr James Paton at Craig, Mr Alexander Thom at Glenbervie, Mr John Shank at Arbuthnot, Mr Patrick Duff at Old Machar, Mr Alexander Fullerton at Futtie, Mr William Shand at Lumphanan, Mr Robert Lumſden at Kildrummy, Mr William Paterſon at Logie Buchan, Mr William Davidſon at Inverury, Mr John Lundie at Loanmay, Mr Robert Duff at King Edward, Mr George Grant at Rathven, Mr John Cooper at Glaſs, Mr John Grant at Dundurcas, Mr John Grant at Abernethy, Mr Lewis Grant at Cromdale, Mr William Peterkin at Elgin, Mr Alexander Fraſer at Kirkhill, Mr William Smith at Pettie, Mr Robert Munro at Kilmuir Weſter, Mr George Balfour at Tarbet, Mr Andrew Gallie at Kincardine, Mr Colin M'Kenzie at Fodderty, Mr Harry Robertſon at Killairn, Mr Robert M'Farlane at Kilferran, Mr John Stewart at Luſs, miniſters; Mr Andrew Croſbie advocate, the Procurator for the Church, Mr John Moſſman merchant in Edinburgh, Mr James Horn writer to the ſignet, Bailie Daniel Miller in Canongate, Bailie William Galloway in Edinburgh, Profeſſor Andrew Dalziel there, Mr John Dickſon advocate, Lord Chief Baron, Lord Preſident, Charles Brown of Coalſton, Eſq; Robert Sinclair, Eſq; advocate, the Lord Advocate, Bailie Donald Smith in Edinburgh, Mark Pringle, Eſq; advocate, Mr John Gloag merchant in Edinburgh, Mr Walter Scott merchant there, Mr James Saunders writer to the ſignet, Alexander Ferguſon of Craigdarroch, Eſq; Alexander Gordon of Greenlaw, Eſq; Mr William Chalmers ſurgeon in Edinburgh, Mr James Torry merchant there, Convener John Lindſay there, Mr William Wallace advocate, Archibald Campbell, Eſq; advocate, Sir James Colquhoun of Luſs, Bart. James Colquhoun younger of Luſs, Eſq; John Lamont of Lamont, Eſq; Robert Cullen, Eſq; advocate, Mr Solicitor General, Donald M'Lauchlan of M'Lauchlan, Eſq; Allan M'Dougall of Galanich, Eſq; Bailie Thomas Elder in Edinburgh, Mr Robert Dundas advocate, Sir John Belſches, Bart. Mr Henry Erſkine advocate,

cate, Dr John Steedman Edinburgh, Mr John Erskine advocate, Dr Andrew Duncan Edinburgh, Mr Richard Lake writer to the signet, Mr Alexander Burnet advocate, Captain Robert Moodie of Springfield, Mr Thomas Scott writer to the signet, James Cunningham of Hyndhope, Esq; Mr William M'Donald writer to the signet, Lord Westhall Mr John Taylor writer to the signet, Mr Alexander Forbes writer in Edinburgh, Mr John Robertson writer there, Mr Baron Gordon, Mr Isaac Grant writer to the signet, Dr Gregory Grant physician Edinburgh, Mr Thomas Gordon writer there, Mr Ludovick Grant junior writer there, Mr Simon Fraser advocate, Bailie John Walker Edinburgh, John M'Kenzie of Applecross, Esq; ruling elders, to be a committee of this Assembly, for the reformation of the Highlands and Islands of Scotland, for promoting the knowledge of true religion, suppressing Popery and profaneness, and for managing the Royal Bounty, for these ends, according to, and in terms of his Majesty's grant to this Assembly. In prosecution of which purposes, the committee are to appoint preachers and catechists, to go to such places as they shall find, upon due information, to be the most proper, according to his Majesty's design expressed in his warrant; and, in so doing, that they have particular regard to such parishes in South Uist, Small Isles, Glenco, Harris, the Countries of Moidart, Glengary, and Lochaber, and the other parishes of the synods of Glenelg and Argyle, which the committee shall find, by reason of the vast extent, by the prevalency of Popery and ignorance, and other unhappy circumstances, to be in the greatest distress: And they shall take care, that the persons they employ be certified, and found, upon due trial, to be properly qualified for these respective offices, of good abilities for the same, of a pious life and conversation, prudent, of undoubted loyalty to his Majesty, and of competent skill in the principles of divinity, and particularly in Popish controversies: Such preachers and catechists being hereby appointed to be subject to, and under the inspection of the presbyteries of the bounds to which they are sent, who are to take care that the orders of the committee be duly observed by them. And the preachers are also appointed to catechise, and both they and the catechists to instruct the people from house

to houſe, and to viſit the ſick and, in all their labour, among the people, to be careful to teach them the principles and duties of the true Chriſtian Proteſtant religions and the obligations they are under to duty and loyalty to our Sovereign King George, and obedience to the laws: And the committee are impowered to give them ſuch inſtructions, as to their work and behaviour, as they ſhall judge meet; which inſtructions the preachers and catechiſts are hereby ordered to obey. The General Aſſembly do further appoint the ſaid committee, to have a particular regard, in their proceedings, to the regulations agreed upon by the committee of the Aſſemby for managing the Royal Bounty, on the 30th of September 1730, approven by frequent Aſſemblies: And to take care that preſbyteries, and others concerned, obſerve the ſame, which they are hereby ordered to do: Particularly, the Aſſembly ordains the ſeveral preſbyteries to inſert in their regiſters, the committee's appointments of their deſignations, ſalaries, and ſtations of the ſeveral miſſionaries, and to have an exact regard thereto, in all the letters they ſhall write about the ſaid miſſionaries, and in giving of certificates to them; and to direct all their letters, concerning miſſionaries in their bounds, only to the Moderator of the committee; which letters ſhall be ſigned, at the appointment of the preſbytery, by the Moderator or clerk thereof: And the Aſſembly does diſcharge any payment to be made of the ſalaries of the miſſionaries, except upon receipts from the miſſionaries themſelves, and upon certificates from the preſbyteries, bearing, That they have ſerved for the time mentioned in the receipts: And that every catechiſt, who receives a ſalary from the Royal Bounty, on condition that the pariſhioners or gentlemen of the diſtrict ſhall pay a certain ſum in aid of ſuch ſalary, ſhall inſert, in the body of his receipt to the caſhier, a declaration that he has received the particular ſum ſpecified; and that the atteſtation of the preſbytery ſhall in like manner bear, that the catechiſt has received the ſtipulated ſum which the committee make the condition of his appointment; it being underſtood by this reſolution, that the ſeveral ſtations, with regard to which ſuch conditions were originally made by the committee, when no ſuch declaration of the catechiſt, or atteſtation of the preſbytery, as is

now

now proposed, is received by the cashier, shall be afterwards suppressed by the committee, though the catechist shall, notwithstanding, receive the salary for the time he is certified to have performed his duty. That a journal of the itinerant's labours in the ministry, of the mission committed to him, be written on the back of the presbytery's certificate, and signed by him, as the ground on which the presbytery have granted him said certicate. The General Assembly do also impower the said committee to apply, for the purposes above mentioned, what may remain of the last year's Royal Bounty not disposed of, by reason of any of the missionaries not fulfilling the appointments laid upon them; and that they are to keep a register of their proceedings, and likewise distinct books of accounts, how the foresaid money is bestowed, which shall be patent to any concerned who please to inspect the same. Of the persons above named as members of this committee, five are declared to be a quorum, whereof three are to be ministers. But it is hereby appointed, That at the quarterly meeting of the committee, in which the scheme or establishment of missionaries for the ensuing year is to be approved and determined, not less than fourteen shall be the quorum, whereof nine shall be ministers; and the said committee are appointed to have their general meetings at Edinburgh, the first lawful day after the adjournment of each of the four stated diets of the Commission of the General Assembly, within the Assembly ayle, at ten of the clock in the forenoon, except that day shall fall to be Saturday, and then the meeting shall be upon Monday next thereafter, at the said hour; with power to the said committee to adjourn themselves to such times and places as they shall find most needful and convenient: And they are to keep a correspondence with the Commission of the General Assembly, and the Society for propagating Christian Knowledge, and their committee of directors, and to take their advice and assistance; and also to correspond with the synods and presbyteries concerned. They are likewise instructed and impowered, as they shall see cause, to apply to the Government, or any magistrate, for assistance and support in carrying on the design of the commission now given to them. And the General Assembly do appoint Mr William Robertson advocate, Procurator

for

for the Church, and Receiver of the foreſaid Royal Bounty, to pay out the ſame as he ſhall be directed and ordered by the foreſaid committee, and according to their rules. And the ſaid committee are appointed to examine the accounts of the diſtribution of the Royal Bounty, and lay the ſame before the Lords Commiſſioners of his Majeſty's Treaſury, or the Barons of his Majeſty's Court of Exchequer, and to report their diligence to the General Aſſembly, to whom they are to be accountable. And it is agreed, That no perſon once employed and inſert in the ſcheme, ſhall be ſtruck out thereof for that year, but by the quorum of at leaſt fourteen, whereof nine to be miniſters; and in caſe any complaint ſhall be made againſt any of them on the ſcheme, it ſhall not be determined the firſt ordinary meeting that the ſame is offered, but it ſhall lye on the table till another meeting; and in the mean time, the perſon complained of, and the preſbytery of the bounds wherein he officiates, ſhall be acquainted of ſuch complaint, and thoſe concerned be required to ſend to the ſaid committee a juſt account of the matter againſt the next meeting. And it is further appointed, That after the yearly ſcheme of miſſionaries on the Royal Bounty is ſettled in manner above directed, and notice thereof given by letters to the preſbyteries concerned, ſuch preſbyteries ſhall ſend up to the ſaid committee their anſwer to theſe letters, at fartheſt with their commiſſioners to the General Aſſembly, if the ſame be not done ſooner; and that the committee, at their firſt meeting after the General Aſſembly, ſhall endeavour to complete the next year's ſcheme themſelves; and if they cannot complete it, they ſhall name a ſubcommittee of their number for that purpoſe, who are to lay their draught thereof before a ſubſequent meeting, which is appointed to meet as ſoon after the riſing of the Aſſembly as poſſible. And impowered the committee, at their firſt meeting, to reject any petition for a new ſtation, in caſe they ſhall find ſufficient objections againſt it; and that the ſaid committee, in making up the ſcheme of miſſionaries, *&c.* do not exceed the ſum in the grant.

Commiſſion

## VI.

## Commission to some Ministers and Ruling Elders, for discussing affairs referred to them.

THE General Assembly, considering there are some affairs which they cannot overtake, do hereby nominate and appoint the Reverend Dr Joseph M'Cormick, minister at Prestonpans, their moderator; from the presbytery of Abertarph, Mr Alexander Fraser at Kilmalie, Mr Thomas Rose at Kilmanivaig, ministers, and Mr Alexander M'Pherson writer in Inverness, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Sky, Mr Donald M'Queen at Kilmuir, Mr Martin M'Pherson at Slate, ministers, Andrew Crosbie, Esq; advocate, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Lewis, Mr Alexander M'Kay at Barvas, Mr Hugh Munro at Uig, ministers, William Robertson, Esq; advocate, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Lochcarron, Mr Daniel M'Intosh at Garloch, Mr John M'Queen at Applecross, ministers; John M'Kenzie younger of Applecross, Esq; ruling elder; from the presbytery of Dornoch, Mr George M'Culloch at Loth, Mr Walter Ross at Clyne, ministers, Professor Hugh M'Leod at Glasgow, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Tong, Mr Alexander Falconer at Edrachilles, Mr John Thomson at Durness, ministers, Mr John Mosman merchant in Edinburgh, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Caithness, Mr William Sutherland at Wick, Mr John Cameron at Halkirk, ministers, Mr James Horn writer to the signet, ruling elder; from the burgh of Wick, Bailie Daniel Miller, Canongate; from the presbytery of Kirkwall, Mr James Alison at Holm, Mr William Anderson at Evie, and  Rendal, ministers, Patrick Græme of Græmeshall, Esq; ruling elder; from the presbytery of Edinburgh, Dr George Wishart, Dr John Erskine, Edinburgh, Mr Thomas Scott at

South Leith, Mr Thomas Whyte at Liberton, Dr James M'Knight, Edinburgh, Mr John Logan at South Leith, miniſters, Bailie William Galloway merchant Edinburgh, Mr John Caw depute ſecretary of exciſe, Mr George Robertſon farmer at Granton, ruling elders; from the city of Edinburgh, the Right Honourable David Stewart, Eſq; Lord Provoſt, Convener William Fraſer; from the univerſity of Edinburgh, Profeſſor Andrew Dalzell; from the preſbytery of Linlithgow, Mr George Ellis at Caridden, Mr John Aitchiſon at Falkirk, Mr Patrick Baillie at Borrowſtounneſs, Mr Robert Wiſhart at Livingſton, miniſters, the Honourable Charles Hope Weir of Craigiehall, Eſq; Captain Taylor of Queensferry, ruling elders; from the burgh of Linlithgow, Provoſt Robert Clarke; from the burgh of Queensferry, Mr William Allan merchant there; from the preſbytery of Biggar, Mr John M'Call at Symington, Mr Robert Pearſon at Biggar, Mr John Gordon at Dolphington, miniſters, John Dickſon of Coulter, Eſq; advocate, ruling elder; from the preſbytery of Peebles, Mr Alexander Adams at Traquair, Mr Charles Findlater at Linton, miniſters, the Right Honourable Lord Chief Baron, ruling elder; from the preſbytery of Dalkeith, Mr Thomas M'Courtney at Pennycuick, Mr John Main at Newton, Dr Henry Grieve at Dalkeith, miniſters, the Right Honourable Lord Preſident, ruling elder; from the preſbytery of Haddington, Mr Matthew Murray at North Berwick, Dr George Barclay at Haddington, Mr Henry Sangſter at Humbie, miniſters, Charles Brown of Coalſton, Eſq; ruling elder; from the burgh of Haddington, William Law of Elvingſton, Eſq; advocate; from the burgh of North Berwick, Hugh Dalrymple, Eſq; younger of North Berwick; from the preſbytery of Dunbar, Mr David Spence at Cockſburnſpath, Mr Daniel M'Queen at Preſtonkirk, miniſters, George Buchan-Hepburn of Smeaton, Eſq; ruling elder; from the burgh of Dunbar, Robert Sinclair, Eſq; advocate; from the preſbytery of Dunſe, Mr William Home at Foggo, Dr Robert Bowmaker at Dunſe, miniſters, Sir John Stewart of Allanbank, Baronet, ruling elder; from the preſbytery of Chirnſide, Dr Walter Anderſon at Chirnſide, Mr John Jolly at Coldingham, miniſters, John Stewart, Eſq;

younger

younger of Allanbank, ruling elder; from the preſbytery of Kelſo, Mr Cornelius Lundie at Kelſo, Dr Thomas M'Dougall at Mackerſton, miniſters, Right Honourable the Lord Advocate, ruling elder; from the preſbytery of Jedburgh, Mr Robert Deans at Crailing, Mr Samuel Charteris at Wilton, Mr James Rutherford at Hounam, miniſters, Donald Smith, Eſq; one of the preſent Bailies of Edinburgh, ruling elder; from the preſbytery of Lauder, Dr Alexander Duncan at Smelholm, Mr Alexander Duncan at Gordon, miniſters, the Right Honourable the Earl of Lauderdale, ruling elder; from the burgh of Lauder, John Tait of Pirn, Eſq; from the preſbytery of Selkirk, Mr William Campbell at Lilliesleaf, Mr Frederick M'Laggan at Melroſe, miniſters, Mark Pringle, Eſq; advocate, ruling elder; from the burgh of Selkirk, Mr John Gloag merchant in Edinburgh; from the preſbytery of Annan, Mr James Smeal at Dornock, Mr James Yorſton at Middlebee, miniſters, Sir William Maxwell of Springkell, Baronet, ruling elder; from the burgh of Annan, Mr Walter Scott merchant in Edinburgh; from the preſbytery of Langholm, Mr John Dickie at Langholm, Mr Richard Scott at Ewis, miniſters, Mr James Saunders writer to the ſignet, ruling elder; from the preſbytery of Lochmaben, Dr John Walker at Moffat, Mr Jacob Dickſon at Mouſwald, Mr Robert Little at Applegirth, miniſters, Mr Peter Halyday in Barntimpen, ruling elder; from the burgh of Lochmaben, Alexander Ferguſſon of Craigdarroch, Eſq; ruling elder; from the preſbytery of Penpont, Mr William Keyden at Penpont, Mr John M'Kill at Duriſdeer, miniſters; Mr Robert Whiggham, Provoſt of Sanquar, ruling elder; from the burgh of Sanquhar, Profeſſor Archibald Arthur; from the preſbytery of Dumfries, Mr Bryce Johnſton at Holywood, Dr David Lamont at Kirkpatrick Durham, Mr Joſeph Kirkpatrick at Dunſcore, miniſters, Mr Robert Bar of Reddingwood, ruling elder; from the preſbytery of Kirckudbright, Mr David Forbes at Borgue, Mr Thomas Halyday at Kelton, Mr Philip Moriſon at Balmaghie, miniſters, Alexander Gordon of Greenlaw, Eſq; ruling elder; from the burgh of New Galloway, Mr William Chalmers ſurgeon in Edinburgh; from the preſbytery of Wigton, Mr Ebenezer Stark at Minnigaff,

Minnigaff, Mr William Boyd at Penningham, miniſters, Mr Andrew M'Gill, ruling elder; from the burgh of Wigton, Mr James Torry merchant in Edinburgh; from the preſbytery of Stranrawer, Mr James M'Culloch at Kirkholm, Mr Henry Blane at Stonekirk, miniſters, the Right Honourable Patrick Maitland of Freuch, Eſq; from the burgh of Stranrawer, Convener John Lindſay, Edinburgh; from the preſbytery of Ayr, Mr Patrick Wodrow at Torbolton, Dr William Dalrymple at Ayr, Mr Thomas Thomſon at Daily, Mr John Ramſay at Kirkmichael, Mr Stephen Young at Bar, miniſters, John Hamilton of Bargeny, Eſq; and William Wallace, Eſq; ruling elders; from the burgh of Ayr, Profeſſor Dugald Stewart at Edinburgh; from the preſbytery of Irvine, Mr Henry Graham at Combray, Mr Arthur Ouchterſon at Kilbride, Mr James Richmond at Irvine, miniſters, the Honourable Mr Patrick Boyle, ruling elder; from the burgh of Irvine, Mr James Innes writer in Irvine; from the preſbytery of Paiſley, Mr Colin Campbell at Renfrew, Mr John Snodgraſs at Paiſley, Mr Colin Gillies at Paiſley, Mr John Monteith junior at Houſton, miniſters, Mr John Cochran, one of the preſent magiſtrates of Paiſley, and Mr William Carlyle, preſent town-treaſurer there, ruling elders; from the preſbytery of Hamilton, Mr James Muirhead at Stonehouſe, Mr John Riſk at Dalſerf, Mr Alexander Ranken at Cambuſnethan, miniſters, Mr James Prentice, portioner of Stone, ruling elder; from the preſbytery of Lanark, Mr William M'Cubban at Douglas, Mr James M'Conochie at Crawford, miniſters, the Right Honourable John Earl of Hyndford, ruling elder; from the burgh of Lanark, George Irving of Newton, Eſq: from the preſbytery of Glaſgow, Dr John Gillies, Mr William Porteous, Mr William Taylor, at Glaſgow, Mr John Burns of the barony pariſh, miniſters, Convener Robert Auchincloſs and Profeſſor John Anderſon, ruling elders, from the city of Glaſgow, Archibald Campbell, Eſq; advocate; from the univerſity of Glaſgow, Profeſſor William Richardſon; from the preſbytery of Dumbarton, Mr James Graham at Killearn, Mr Archibald Bruce at Fintry, Mr John Stewart at Luſs, miniſters, Sir James Colquhoun of Luſs, Baronet, ruling elder; from the burgh of Dumbarton,

barton, James Colquhoun younger of Luss, Esq; from the presbytery of Dunoon, Mr John Melvil at Dunoon, Mr Robert M'Farlane at Kilfinan, ministers, John Lamont of Lamont, Esq; ruling elder; from the presbytery of Kintyre, Mr Robert Thomson at Killean, Mr John Smith at Campbelton, Mr Alexander Campbell at Kilcalmonel, ministers, Robert Cullen, Esq; advocate, ruling elder; from the burgh of Campbelton, Mr Solicitor General; from the presbytery of Inverary, Mr Paul Fraser at Craignish, Mr Archibald Campbell at North Knapdale, ministers, Donald M'Lauchlane of M'Lauchlane, Esq; ruling elder; from the burgh of Inverary, Dr James Williamson, professor of mathematics in the college of Glasgow; from the presbytery of Lorn, Mr Joseph M'Intyre at Glenorchy, Mr Patrick M'Donald at Kilmore, ministers; Colonel Robert Campbell of Monzie, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Mull, Mr Dugald Campbell at Kilfinichen, Mr Archibald M'Coll at Tiree, ministers, Allan M'Dougall, Esq; of Galanish, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Dunkeld, Mr Adam Ferguson at Moulin, Mr Robert Williamson at Lethindy, Mr James Hunter at Auchtergaven, Mr Charles M'Hardy at Kirkmichael, ministers, Bailie Thomas Elder merchant in Edinburgh and Mr Robert Dundas advocate, ruling elders; from the presbytery of Perth, Mr Harry Inglis at Forteviot, Mr Alexander Duff at Tippermuir, Mr George Chapman at Kinfauns, Mr William Garvie at Aberdalgie, ministers, Sir John Belsches, Baronet, and George Wright of Laton, Esq; ruling elders; from the presbytery of Stirling, Mr James Frame at Alloa, Mr John Muschet at Stirling, ministers, William Muirhead of Herbertshire, Esq; ruling elder; from the burgh of Stirling, Mr James More, sheriff-substitute of Stirling; from the presbytery of Auchterarder, Mr Robert Stirling at Crieff, Mr Colin Baxter at Monyvaird, Mr Andrew Duncan at Auchterarder, ministers, the Honourable Henry Erskine, Esq; ruling elder; from the presbytery of Dumblane, Mr James Smith at Kilmadock, Mr John Robertson at Dumblane, ministers, James Goodlet Campbell, Esq; of Auchline, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Dunfermline, Mr Andrew Richardson at Inverkeithing, Mr John Spence at Orwell, Mr Ro-

bert Rolland at Culroſs, miniſters, Dr John Steedman phyſician in Edinburgh, ruling elder; from the burgh of Dunfermline, Bailie William Hutton merchant there; from the burgh of Inverkeithing, Mr John Eckford merchant; from the preſbytery of Kirkcaldy, Dr Patrick Muirhead at Dyſart, Mr David Swan at Scoonie, Mr William Greenfield at Wemyſs miniſters, James Townſend Oſwald of Dunnikier, Eſq; ruling elder; from the burgh of Kirkcaldy, Mr James Fergus merchant there; from the burgh of Kinghorn, John Erſkine, Eſq; advocate; from the burgh of Dyſart, Mr John Melvill ſenior, manufacturer there; from the preſbytery of Cupar, Mr Robert Bogie at Logie, Mr Robert M'Culloch at Darſie, Mr William Gourlay at Fliſk, Mr Andrew Ireland at Monzie, miniſters, the Right Honourable David Earl of Leven and Mr Robert Meldrum of Pittormie, ruling elders; from the burgh of Cupar, Major John Melvill of Cairney; from the preſbytery of St Andrew's, Mr Patrick Glaſs at Crail, Mr John Mair at Cameron, Mr James Nairn at Pittenweem, Mr James M'Donald at Kemback, miniſters, James Durham of Largo, Eſq; and James Ayton of Kippo, Eſq; ruling elders; from the burgh of St Andrew's, Dr Andrew Duncan phyſician in Edinburgh; from the univerſity of St Andrew's, Profeſſor George Hill; from the preſbytery of Meigle, Mr John Halyburton at Kettins, Mr William Dow at Blairgowrie, Mr Charles Keay at Cupar Angus, miniſters, Patrick Aliſon of Newhall Eſq; ruling elder; from the preſbytery of Forfar, Mr Thomas Raiker at Oathlaw, Mr David Ferney at Kinnettles, miniſters, George Dempſter of Dunichen, Eſq; ruling elder; from the preſbytery of Dundee, Mr James Miln at Kinnaird, Mr George Lyon at Long Forgan, Mr John Gallatly at Tealing, miniſters, Bailie John Thoms merchant in Dundee, ruling elder; from the preſbytery of Aberbrothock, Mr Alexander Mackie at Aberbrothock, Mr David Sym at Barry, miniſters, Mr Richard Lake writer to the ſignet, ruling elder; from the burgh of Aberbrothock, Mr Charles Allan merchant in Aberbrothock; from the preſbytery of Brechin, Mr James Paton at Craig, Mr John Pirie at Lochlee, Mr Alexander Molliſon at Montroſe, miniſters,

ſters, Mr Alexander Burnet, advocate, ruling elder; from the burgh of Montroſe, Captain Robert Moodie of Springfield; from the preſbytery of Fordown, Mr Alexander Thom at Glenbervie, Mr John Shank at Arbuthnot, Mr William Walker at Eccleſgreig, miniſters, Mr Thomas Scott writer to the ſignet, ruling elder; from the preſbytery of Aberdeen, Mr Patrick Duff at Old Machar, Mr Alexander Fullerton at Futtie, Mr George Mark at Petercoulter, Mr Robert Dunbar at Old Machar, miniſters, James Cuningham of Hyndhope Eſq; and George Strachan Keith of Auguhorſk, Eſq; ruling elders; from the King's College, Mr Roderick M'Leod ſub-principal; from the preſbytery of Kincardine O' Neal, Mr William Shand at Lumfannan, Mr Robert Farquharſon at Logie Coldſton, Mr George Knowls at Birſe, miniſters, William M'Donald of Rinnetton, Eſq; ruling elder; from the preſbytery of Alford, Mr Robert Lumſden at Kildrummy, Mr Thomas Tait at Auchindore, Mr George Donaldſon at Kennethmont, miniſters, John Gordon, Eſq; of Craig, ruling elder; from the preſbytery of Ellon, Mr William Paterſon at Logie Buchan, Mr Alexander Cock at Cruden, miniſters, Profeſſor Thomas Gordon Aberdeen, ruling elder; from the preſbytery of Garioch, Mr William Davidſon at Inverury, Mr Patrick Davidſon at Rayne, Mr Alexander Duff at Monymuſk, miniſters, the Right Honourable Lord Weſthall, ruling elder; from the preſbytery of Deer, Mr John Lundie at Lonmay, Mr John Craigie at St Fergus, Mr Baſil Anderſon at Old Deer, miniſters, Mr John Taylor writer to the ſignet, ruling elder; from the preſbytery of Turriff, Mr Robert Duff at King Edward, Mr Thomas Wilſon at Gamry, miniſters, Mr Alexander Forbes writer in Edinburgh, ruling elder; from the preſbytery of Fordyce, Mr George Grant at Rathven, Mr Walter Chalmers at Deſkford, miniſters, Mr John Robertſon writer in Edinburgh, ruling elder; from the preſbytery of Strathbogie, Mr John Cooper at Glaſs, Mr George William Algernon Gordon at Keith, miniſters, the Honourable Baron Gordon, ruling elder; from the preſbytery of Aberlour, Mr John Grant at Dundurcas, Mr John Dunbar at Knockando, miniſters, Mr Iſaac Grant writer to the ſignet, ruling elder; from the

the preſbytery of Abernethy, Mr John Grant at Abernethy, Mr Lewis Grant at Cromdale, miniſters, Dr Gregory Grant phyſician in Edinburgh, ruling elder; from the preſbytery of Elgin, Mr William Peterkin at Elgin, Mr John Reid at Duffus, miniſters, Mr Thomas Gordon writer in Edinburgh, ruling elder; from the burgh of Forres, Mr Ludovick Grant junior writer in Edinburgh; from the preſbytery of Inverneſs, Mr Alexander Fraſer at Kirkhill, Mr William Smith at Pettie, miniſters, Simon Fraſer, Eſq; ſheriff-depute of Inverneſs, ruling elder; from the preſbytery of Chanonry, Mr Robert Monro at Kilmuir Weſter, Mr Thomas Simpſon at Avoch, miniſters, Bailie John Walker merchant Edinburgh, ruling elder; from the preſbytery of Tain, Mr George Balfour at Tarbet, Mr Andrew Gallie at Kincardine, miniſters, the Right Honourable Lord Ankerville, ruling elder; from the preſbytery of Dingwall, Mr Colin M'Kenzie at Foderty, Mr Harry Robertſon at Kiltairn, miniſters, Sir John Gordon of Invergordon, Baronet, ruling elder; and the Aſſembly added thereto Dr George Barclay, one of the miniſters of Haddington, in place of the moderator; and all the members whoſe commiſſions had been rejected by the Aſſembly on account of informality, to be Commiſſioners of this General Aſſembly, to the effect after mentioned; with power to the ſaid Commiſſioners, or their quorum, which is hereby declared to be any thirty-one of the ſaid Commiſſioners, whereof twenty-one are always to be miniſters, to meet and conveen within the Aſſembly-houſe at Edinburgh, the firſt day after the diſſolution of this Aſſembly, at ten of the clock in the forenoon; and thereafter, the ſecond Wedneſday of Auguſt, third Wedneſday of November, and the firſt Wedneſday of March next to come, and oftner when and where they ſhall think fit and convenient, with power to the ſaid Commiſſioners to chuſe their own moderator: And likewiſe, the General Aſſembly fully impowers their ſaid Commiſſioners, or their quorum above mentioned, to cognoſce and finally determine, as they ſhall ſee cauſe, in every matter referred, or that ſhall be referred to them, by an act or order of this Aſſembly; and to do every thing contained in, and conform to the inſtructions given, or to be given by this Aſſembly;

Assembly; and to advert to the interest of the Church on every occasion, that the Church, and present establishment thereof, do not suffer or sustain any prejudice which they can prevent, as they will be answerable: Provided always, that this general clause be not extended to particular affairs or processes before synods or presbyteries, that are not of universal concern to, or influence upon, the whole Church. And it is hereby appointed, that no private processes be determined, except at the four stated diets; and what shall be determined at one diet of the Commission, with relation to private causes, shall be unalterable by any other diet thereof, and shall stand and continue in force till disapproven of by the General Assembly. And the Assembly renews the instructions given by the General Assembly in the year one thousand seven hundred and seventeen to their Commission, and appoints the same to stand in full force, as instructions to the Commissioners before named, and to be observed by them in all points, as if the same were specially here insert; and that they enquire into the publishing and spreading of books and pamplets, tending towards the promoting of opinions of whatever kind, inconsistent with our *Confession of Faith*; and that the recommenders of such books or pamphlets, or the errors therein contained, whether by word, writ, or print, be called before the said Commission to answer for the same. And further, the said Commission is hereby impowered to receive any references and appeals that shall be made to them from synods, in matters of doctrine, and ripen such affairs for the next General Assembly; and to contribute what they can to the suppressing of vice and immorality, and give all needful advice and assistance to synods and presbyteries, upon application to them for that end: Likewise to take care that the impressions of the *Holy Scriptures*, the *Confession of Faith*, and *Catechisms*, and such books as are authorised by this Church, relating to the doctrine, worship, discipline, and government thereof, be correct; and give directions about printing the same. And the Commissioners are appointed and impowered to keep a correspondence with the committee for Reformation of the Highlands and Islands, for suppressing Popery and superstition, and for promoting the

knowledge of true religion, and carrying on a reformation in theſe parts, and give aſſiſtance and concurrence therein; and, if need be, to apply to the Government for a proper remedy and ſpeedy redreſs. And the ſaid Commiſſioners are hereby ſtrictly prohibited and diſcharged to meddle in any other matters than what are committed and referred to them as above mentioned: And, in all their actings, they are to proceed according to the acts and conſtitution of this Church, and to do nothing contrary thereto, or to the prejudice of the ſame; declaring that, in and for all their actings, they ſhall be accountable to, and cenſurable by the next General Aſſembly, as they ſhall ſee cauſe. And the General Aſſembly appoints the ſaid Commiſſioners particularly to obſerve the acts of the General Aſſemblies one thouſand ſeven hundred and twelve, and one thouſand ſeven hundred and nineteen, reſpecting the application of the public money; which two acts are printed among the acts of Aſſembly one thouſand ſeven hundred and ſixty-one. And this Commiſſion is to continue and endure until another Commiſſion be appointed; and members are required to attend the diets of the ſaid Commiſſion; and abſents therefrom are ordered to be noticed, according to the 17th act of the General Aſſembly held in the year one thouſand ſeven hundred and ſix. And for the better ſecuring of a quorum, and attendance of members on the Commiſſion, the General Aſſembly prohibits the preſbytery of Edinburgh, or any other preſbytery within twelve miles thereof, to meet on any of the days or weeks appointed for the meeting of this Commiſſion; and ſuch of the members of theſe preſbyteries as are on the Commiſſion, are required, all of them, to give attendance on the diets thereof; and the preſbyteries at a greater diſtance, who have four or more members on the Commiſſion, are to take care, that at leaſt two of them attend each diet of the ſame: And the General Aſſembly appoint their Commiſſion, at their firſt meeting, to diſcuſs as many of the cauſes and queſtions, relative to the ſettlements of vacant Churches, which are or ſhall be referred to them by the Aſſembly, as they can overtake. And it is further provided, that when any preſbytery or ſynod of this Church ſhall decline to comply with the ſentence

of

of the Commission, or to give the same a full execution, in that case the Commission is hereby prohibited to execute the same, by appointing any such correspondent meeting, as has been some time the practice, but shall allow the same to lye over to the ensuing Assembly, to which such presbyteries or synods shall be answerable for such their conduct, and are hereby appointed to send up with their Commissioners their reasons for the same. And the Assembly doth further impower and direct the said Commission, to make due application to the King and Parliament for redress of the grievance of patronage, in case a favourable opportunity for so doing shall occur during the subsistence of this Commission: And that in passing their sentences, and in ordering the execution of the same, they strictly observe the 12th act of the Assembly one thousand seven hundred and thirty-six.

## VII.

## Act declaratory concerning Moderation of Calls.

*30th May* 1782.

UPON a motion that the resolution of Assembly respecting the moderation of calls should, for the satisfaction of all concerned, be converted into a declaratory act, and printed amongst the Acts of Assembly, the General Assembly agreed thereto, without a vote; and, in terms of said resolution, did, and hereby do, declare, that the moderation of a call, in the settlement of ministers, is agreeable to the immemorial and constitutional practice of this Church, and ought to be continued.

## VIII.

## Act reſpecting the Licenſing of Probationers.

THE General Aſſembly having taken into their ſerious conſideration the danger that ariſeth to this Church, and to the ſouls of people, by licenſing any to preach the goſpel who are not duly qualified, according to the rules laid down in the Holy Scriptures; and conſidering that the ſeveral acts made by former Aſſemblies on this ſubject lie ſo ſcattered in many ſeparate articles, at great diſtances from one another, that the directions therein given were in danger of being overlooked by preſbyteries, did collect what appeared to them moſt material in former acts, and tranſmit the ſame, in form of an overture, to preſbyteries; and now finding, by report from their Committee for Overtures, that a majority of preſbyteries have agreed to turn the ſame into a ſtanding law of the Church;—the General Aſſembly, after reaſoning, reſolved, by a very great majority, to turn the ſaid overture into a ſtanding law of the Church, and accordingly did, and hereby do, enact and ordain, that the following regulations ſhall be ſtrictly obſerved in all time coming.

1*mo*, That no preſbytery admit any perſon to probationary trials but ſuch as are found to be of good report, of ſufficient learning, of ſound principles, of a pious, ſober, grave, and prudent behaviour, and of a peaceable diſpoſition, and well affected to the government in church and ſtate, and of whom they have ſufficient ground to conceive that they ſhall be uſeful and edifying in the church, and that careful enquiry be made thereanent; and that, without reſpect of perſons, ſuch as are eſteemed to be light and vain in their behaviour, proud, worldly-minded, or unacquainted with the power of practical godlineſs, be kept back from that ſacred work.

2*do*,

2*do*, That none be admitted to trials in order to be licenſed, but ſuch as have produced to the Profeſſor of Divinity, at the time of their being enrolled, either a diploma of Maſter of Arts, or a certificate, bearing that they have gone through a full courſe of philoſophy at the College, and who have either given cloſe attendance on the divinity-hall for the ſpace of four years, from the time of their names being entered upon the roll of the preſbytery as ſtudents of divinity; or, if their circumſtances did not permit them to give cloſe attendance on the hall, have continued to proſecute the ſtudy of divinity for ſix years, and have in that time delivered the uſual number of diſcourſes; provided alſo, that, at the time of their being admitted to trials, they are twenty-one years of age complete.

3*tio*, The General Aſſembly, conſidering the reproach that may be brought on religion in general, and particularly on this Church, by the unworthy behaviour of ſuch as follow the ſtudy of divinity, do earneſtly recommend to the preſbyteries, profeſſors of divinity, and miniſters and members of this Church, to keep a watchful eye on ſuch ſtudents, during the terms above ſpecified. And further, that when any ſtudent comes to attend the profeſſor of divinity in any univerſity, he ſhall produce to the profeſſor, and to the miniſter of the pariſh where he is to reſide, during the time of his attendance on the profeſſion, a teſtimonial from the miniſter of the pariſh from whence he comes; and when he leaves the profeſſion, he ſhall carry back teſtimonials from the miniſter of the pariſh, of his grave and ſuitable behaviour becoming his character; and from the profeſſor, teſtimonials certifying the ſame, and alſo his regular attendance on the diets of the profeſſion, and the time he has attended. And when any profeſſor of divinity ſhall think fit to recommend a ſtudent, in order to probationary trials, his teſtimonials ſhall certify his proficiency in his ſtudies, and his moral character.

4*to*, The General Aſſembly do appoint and ordain, That no preſbytery admit any ſtudent to probationary trials, except ſuch as have reſided within their bounds for the ſpace of ſix months, or do produce to them ſufficient teſtimonials from the preſbyteries in whoſe bounds they

have lived, or for the moſt part reſided, expreſſing, that it is the deſire of theſe preſbyteries that theſe ſtudents ſhould be entered upon trials. And ſuch ſtudents as come from abroad, ſhall produce ſatisfying teſtimonials from the profeſſors under whom they ſtudied; and the time of their being abroad ſhall be accounted a part of the ſix years; but none of theſe ſtudents ſhall be entered upon trials for the ſpace of half a year after they come to Scotland.

*5to*, When any ſtudent is propoſed to a preſbytery, in order to be taken on trials, the propoſal ſhall lye on the table till the next ordinary meeting, before they give judgment therein, that diligent enquiry may be made, and information had concerning the ſaid ſtudent's qualifications and behaviour; and the preſbytery ſhall be alone when the propoſal is made and judged on: And the General Aſſembly enjoins all ſtudents to take all opportunities of cultivating an acquaintance with the miniſters of the preſbytery where they reſide, and where they are to paſs trials.

*6to*, When the preſbytery, after ſerious enquiry and mature deliberation, ſhall agree to take the propoſed candidate on trials, they ſhall examine him ſtrictly and privately, in order to enable them to judge whether he poſſeſſes the piety, knowledge, abilities, and other qualifications neceſſary for a preacher of the goſpel.

*7mo*, The General Aſſembly appoints the ſame method to be obſerved, and trials to be taken in all the above particulars, before any preſbytery recommend a ſtudent to paſs trials in another preſbytery.

*8vo*, The General Aſſembly do alſo appoint and ordain, That the terms above ſpecified being expired, and teſtimonials produced, and previous trials taken in manner above directed, the preſbytery, before they preſcribe any part of public trials, ſhall write letters to all the preſbyteries within the bounds of the ſynod, acquainting them with their deſign, two months at leaſt before ſitting of the ſynod; and at the next meeting of the ſynod, they ſhall alſo acquaint the ſynod thereof, and obtain their ſpecial judgment and advice in that particular; and, that the members of the ſaid preſbytery and ſynod may be ripely adviſed thereanent, the General Aſſembly

appoints

appoints the said letters to be duly and carefully transmitted to the several presbyteries, and that intimation thereof be publicly made at the first diet of the synod, to lye on the table till the second or some subsequent diet, and then particular enquiry be made whether any person have any thing to object against the student's being entered on trials for preaching the gospel. Provided always, that in any part of this Church, when synods meet but once a-year, a student may be proposed to the synod half-a-year sooner than would have been competent if the synod had met twice a-year.

9*no*, The General Assembly recommends to presbyteries, that before any student is entered on trials, the engagements required by act 10th Assembly 1711, of such as are to be licensed, be read to them; and that the presbytery take promise of them, that they will subscribe to, and particularly observe the same, in case the presbytery see cause to licence them; and that this promise be recorded in their books.

10*mo*, The General Assembly appoints the public probationary trials of students, who are to be licensed probationers, to be the following, *viz.* 1. The catechetic trials to be renewed in presence of the presbytery, and that previously to all the other parts of public trials. 2. A homily in English on a Scripture text. 3. An exegesis in Latin on a controverted head of Divinity, and sustaining a thesis and dispute thereon. 4. An exercise and addition. 5. A lecture on a large portion of Scripture. 6. A popular sermon on a particular text of Scripture. 7. A trial on chronology and Church history, especially the history of our own Church. *Lastly*, A trial on their knowledge of the Greek and Hebrew languages.

11*mo*, The General Assembly, judging it fit that the same method shall be followed in all presbyteries as to questions put to, and engagements taken of probationers when licensed; and that the said probationers should not only give sufficient proof of their piety, literature, and other good qualifications for the sacred ministry, but also come under the strictest engagements to adhere to and maintain the doctrine, worship, discipline, and government of this Church: Do therefore enact and appoint,

That

That the queſtions appointed by act 10th 1711, be put to all ſuch as paſs trials; and likewiſe that they ſhall ſubſcribe the *Formula* ſet down in the ſaid act, before they be licenſed to preach the goſpel. And the General Aſſembly ſtrictly prohibits the licenſing any perſon whatſomever, who ſhall not give explicit and ſatisfying anſwers to theſe queſtions, and ſubſcribe the ſaid *Formula*; and diſcharge any preſbytery to make uſe of any other queſtions or *Formula*.

12*mo*, When any preſbytery, who, with the ſynod's allowance, has entered, or who is about to enter a ſtudent on trials, ſhall receive a letter from any preſbytery, ſhewing their diſſatisfaction with that ſtudent, and giving relevant grounds for the ſame, which they offer to verify to the preſbytery at their next meeting, the ſaid ſtudent ſhall not be licenſed until the matter be tried. And the General Aſſembly appoints preſbyteries, who ſhall receive ſuch letters anent ſtudents from any other preſbytery, to write a return with the firſt poſt after their meeting, acquainting them of their next diet.

13*tio*, That the acts concerning Simony be read before licenſing any probationer.

14*to*, For the better obſervation of this act, it is particularly recommended to the profeſſors of divinity, to communicate the contents thereof to their ſtudents in a public meeting annually, at ſuch time, in the month of January, as to them ſeems moſt convenient. And all preſbyteries and ſynods are peremtorily appointed to obſerve the ſame in all its parts: And it is ſtrictly enjoined, that viſitors of preſbytery-books make ſtrict enquiry how the ſeveral preſbyteries do obſerve the ſame.

## IX.

[*The General Assembly re-transmits to presbyteries the following Overture, and recommends it to them to pay particular attention thereto.*]

## Overture anent the Ordination of Elders.

THAT whereas great irregularities have crept into the Church, with respect to the Ordination of Elders, it should be enacted, That no minister should set apart any person to that sacred office in his congregation, who has not a fixed residence in the parish, or such property in it as would entitle him to vote in the calling of a minister; it being the true meaning and intent of this overture to prevent elders being ordained in congregations who are in no way connected with them: And it being understood, that any city or town, where there are more congregations than one, shall be held as one parish, so far as respects the purpose of this overture.

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OF THE

ACTINGS and PROCEEDINGS of the General Aſſembly of the Church of Scotland, held in the year 1782, which are not printed at full length.

*May* 23. 1782. *Seſſ.* 1*ſt.*

AFTER ſermon by the Reverend Dr William Dalrymple, miniſter of the goſpel at Ayr, Moderator of the laſt General Aſſembly, the miniſters and elders convened in the Aſſembly-houſe; and, after prayer by the ſaid Dr William Dalrymple, Dr Joſeph M'Cormick, miniſter of the goſpel at Preſtonpans, was choſen Moderator; and, at the Aſſembly's deſire, took the chair.

The King's Commiſſion to the Right Honourable George Earl of Dalhouſie, to repreſent his Majeſty's Royal perſon, read, and ordered to be recorded.

The King's moſt gracious letter to the Aſſembly read, and ordered to be recorded.

The Commiſſioner's ſpeech, at opening this Aſſembly; and the Moderator's ſpeech, in return thereto.

His Majeſty's Royal warrant for L. 1000 Sterling, delivered in to the Aſſembly by his Grace the Commiſſioner, read, and ordered to be recorded.

A Committee named for anſwering the King's moſt gracious letter.

The ſame Committee named to draw up an addreſs to his Majeſty, on the preſent ſtate of public affairs.

Recommended to thoſe brethren who ſhall be called upon to pray at to-morrow's diet, to be particular in their thankſgiving to Almighty God for the late ſignal ſucceſs he has been pleaſed to grant to his Majeſty's arms.

A Comittee named for reviſing the commiſſions to the members of this Aſſembly, cenſuring abſents from

diets

diets thereof, naming miniſters to preach before his Grace the King's Commiſſioner, receiving in liſts of the probationers in the ſeveral preſbyteries, in order to their being recorded.

Committee for overtures named.

Committee for bills, references, and appeals, named.

Adjournment.

*May* 24. 1782. *Seſſ.* 2*d.*

Sederunt.

A diet ſpent in prayer.

New commiſſions produced.

Act VII. of Aſſembly 1718, for the better diſpatch of the buſineſs of this Aſſembly, read, and the obſervation thereof enjoined.

Miniſters named to preach before his Grace the Commiſſioner.

The Committees for overtures and bills appointed to meet this evening in their uſual places.

Adjournment.

*May* 25. 1782. *Seſſ.* 3*d.*

Sederunt.

New commiſſions produced.

The report of the committee for overtures called for; the ſame was given in and read over.

An objection, by the magiſtrates of Aberdeen, to the commiſſion from the preſbytery of Aberdeen, in favour of Mr Alexander Fullerton, heard; the Aſſembly repelled the objection, and ſuſtained the commiſſion.

An objection to the commiſſion from the burgh of Queensferry heard; the Aſſembly ſuſtained the objection, and ordered the commiſſioner's name to be expunged from the roll.

An objection to the commiſſion from the burgh of Lauder heard; the Aſſembly ſuſtained the objection, and ordered the commiſſioner's name to be expunged from the roll.

The objection to the commiſſion from the burgh of Dunfermline delayed, till the report of the committee for bills ſhould be read.

The

The draught of an anſwer to the King's moſt gracious letter to this Aſſembly brought in and approved; and his Grace the Commiſſioner, at the Aſſembly's requeſt, undertakes to tranſmit the ſame to his Majeſty.

The draught of an addreſs to his Majeſty, on the preſent ſtate of public affairs, which had been approven of by the committee appointed to prepare it, was produced and read. Another draught, which had not been agreed to by ſaid committee, but being read by a member in his place, and tranſmitted *ſimpliciter* by the committee for overtures, was alſo produced and read. And the queſtion being put, which of theſe ſhould be adopted, it carried that which had been approven of by the committee; againſt which ſeveral members diſſented.

The roll of cauſes tranſmitted by the committee for bills called for, produced, and read over.

Reſolved to conſider on Monday the commiſſion from the burgh of Dunfermline, after that the cauſe anent the ſettlement of Arrochar, and next to that the cauſe of Mr M'Intoſh miniſter of Moy, and on Tueſday the cauſe of Carſphairn.

A committee named to reviſe the actings and proceedings of the Commiſſion of the late General Aſſembly.

A committee named to reviſe the actings and proceedings of the committee appointed by laſt Aſſembly for managing the Royal Bounty for the reformation of the Highlands and Iſlands.

A committee named to audite the Procurator and Agent's accounts, conſider the ſtate of the public money, and prepare overtures about the ſame.

The committee for overtures impowered to receive in from the ſeveral members any inſtructions given to them by their reſpective ſynods or preſbyteries, claſs the matters therein contained, and prepare overtures thereupon to the Aſſembly; and receive in and conſider any accounts that ſhall be given them of the ſtate of the Church in the North Highlands, particularly concerning the growth of Popery and ſuperſtition, and prepare overtures for preventing or ſuppreſſing thereof.

The committee for bills appointed to meet on Monday morning at ten o'clock.

Adjournment.

*May* 27. 1782. *Seſſ.* 4*th.*

Sederunt.

New commiſſions produced.

Several members adhered to the diſſent of yeſterday, reſpecting the deciſion anent the addreſs to his Majeſty.

Report of the committee for bills called for, produced, and read.

Report of the committee for overtures produced and read.

Agreed to conſider on Thurſday overtures from the ſynods of Perth and Stirling, Fife, Glaſgow and Ayr, Galloway, Lothian and Tweeddale. and Angus and Mearns, reſpecting the moderation of calls; and immediately after that the overture from the ſynod of Fife, reſpecting the definition of a call.

Synod books called for; the ſynod books of Fife, Aberdeen, and Roſs produced; an excuſe offered and ſuſtained for the abſence of the ſynod book of Angus and Mearns; none of the other ſynod books were brought up; reſolved that the reaſons for their abſence be enquired into.

Delayed the cauſe of Arrochar till to-morrow, to come in after the cauſe of Carſphairn; and agreed to hear the cauſe of Mr M'Intoſh on Wedneſday, and the cauſe of Evandale to-day, immediately after that of Mr Hutton.

An appeal of Bailie William Hutton merchant in Dunfermline, againſt the kirk-ſeſſion of Dunfermline, for refuſing to atteſt his commiſſion from the burgh of Dunfermline, to repreſent the ſaid burgh in this Aſſembly, heard; the commiſſion ſuſtained.

An appeal of John Hamilton of Collinhill, and others adhering to him, pariſhioners of the pariſh of Evandale, againſt a ſentence of the preſbytery of Hamilton, ſuſtaining a call to Mr John Scott to be miniſter of ſaid pariſh, heard; the appeal diſmiſſed, the ſentence of the preſbytery of Hamilton affirmed, and they appointed to proceed to the ſettlement of the preſentee with all convenient ſpeed, according to the rules of the Church.

A committee appointed to conſider the application from the people of Noriſton.

The committee for overtures appointed to meet this evening at half paſt ſeven, and the committee for reviſing commiſſions at ſeven.

The committee on the window and houſe tax renewed, with the former powers.

Reſolved to conſider the cauſe of Fenwick firſt on Wedneſday; having been before laſt Aſſembly, therefore entitled to a preference.

A committee appointed to conſider the reference from the preſbytery of Biggar, and another from the ſynod of Glaſgow and Ayr, reſpecting marriages.

A committee appointed to conſider the memorial from the preſbytery of Perth, reſpecting the hoſpital of Perth.

Adjournment.

*May* 28. 1782. *Seſſ.* 5*th.*

Sederunt.

New commiſſions produced.

Report of the committee for overtures called for, the ſame was given in, and read over.

A reference by the ſynod of Galloway, reſpecting a libel brought before the preſbytery of Kirkcudbright, at the inſtance of John M'Millan of Holm, and others, heritors, elders, and heads of families in the pariſh of Carſphairn, againſt Mr Robert Affleck preacher of the goſpel, preſentee to the ſaid pariſh, heard; the firſt, ſecond, third, and fourth articles of the libel ſuſtained as relevant, and remitted to the preſbytery of Kirkcudbright to be admitted to proof, and to proceed in the affair according to the rules of the Church; the fifth article of the libel found not relevant.

An appeal of Sir James Colquhoun of Luſs, Baronet, undoubted patron of the pariſh of Arrochar, and Mr John Gilleſpie, his preſentee, and of the preſbytery of Dumbarton, againſt a ſentence of the ſynod of Glaſgow and Ayr, referring a ſentence of the ſaid preſbytery, ſuſtaining a call to the ſaid Mr John Gilleſpie, inſtead of affirming the ſame; the counſel for the appellants paſſed from the appeal; agreed to take up the cauſe upon the ſynod's reference; the ſentence of the

preſbytery

preſbytery of Dumbarton, ſuſtaining the call to Mr Gilleſpie to be miniſter of the pariſh of Arrochar, affirmed, and the preſbytery appointed to proceed to his ſettlement with all convenient ſpeed, according to the rules of the Church.

The committee on new erections appointed to meet to-morrow in the Aſſembly-houſe, at half an hour after ten.

Agreed to take in the cauſe anent the chapel of Dunfermline to-morrow, after the two cauſes already appointed, if there is time, and to conſider on Friday the cauſe of Croſsmichael, and Mr Lawſon's cauſe.

Adjournment.

*May* 29. 1782. *Seſſ.* 6*th.*

Sederunt.

Reaſons of diſſent from the reſolution of Aſſembly upon the ſubject of addreſſing his Majeſty on the ſtate of public affairs given in, and openly read, and ordered to lie *in retentis.*

The report of the committee appointed by laſt Aſſembly to conſider the reference from the ſynod of Lothian and Tweeddale, reſpecting irregular marriages, given in, and ordered to lie on the table till Saturday next.

The report of the committee on new erections called for, given in, and read, and ordered to lie on the table till Saturday.

The report of the committee appointed to conſider the petition of the people of Noriſton called for, given in, and read, and ordered to lie on the table till Saturday.

The committee on the Enzie fund renewed, with the uſual powers; new members added.

A reference from the preſbytery of Irvine, reſpecting the ſettlement of Mr William Boyd, preſentee to the pariſh of Fenwick, heard; the requeſt of the preſbytery of Irvine rejected, and the preſbytery enjoined to proceed to the ſettlement of Mr Boyd, the preſentee, according to the rules of the church, on or before the 25th day of June next; and all the members of preſbytery required to attend, and to report to the Commiſſion in Auguſt.

Agreed

Agreed to take in the cauſe of Mr M'Intoſh on Friday.
The committees for overtures and bills appointed to meet at half paſt ten o'clock to-morrow.
Adjournment.

*May* 30. 1782. *Seſſ. 7th.*

Sederunt.
A new commiſſion produced.
The report of the committee for claſſing overtures given in, and read, from which it appearing, that forty preſbyteries have approved of the overture reſpecting the licenſing probationers, the Aſſembly reſolved to conſider ſaid overture firſt on Saturday.
The overture anent the ordination of elders retranſmitted.—*Vide Printed Acts.*
Reſolved, That all motions and amendments of motions for the future be given in to the Aſſembly in writing, previous to their being voted on.
The Procurator's and Agent's accounts produced, and ordered to lie on the table.
A committee appointed to conſider the overture from the ſynod of Moray, and likewiſe the overture from the preſbytery of Penpont.
Agreeable to the reſolution of Monday laſt, the Aſſembly proceeded to conſider the overtures from the ſynods of Perth and Stirling, Fife, Glaſgow and Ayr, Galloway, Lothian and Tweeddale, and Angus and Mearns, concerning the moderation of a call; and, after reaſoning, two motions were made and ſeconded; 1*ſt*, That the Aſſembly declare, that the moderation of a call is agreeable to the immemorial practice of this Church; but not having ſufficient evidence laid before them, that any preſbyteries have departed ſo far from eſtabliſhed uſage, as to lay aſide the moderation of a call in the ſettlement of a miniſter, diſmiſs theſe overtures as at this time unneceſſary; and, 2*d*, That the Aſſembly declare, that the moderation of a call in ſettling miniſters is agreeable to the immemorial and conſtitutional practice of this Church, and that it ought to be continued: The queſtion being put, the ſecond motion carried, and the Aſſembly declared accordingly.

The overture from the ſynod of Fife, reſpecting the definition of a call, withdrawn by the members of that ſynod, with leave of the Aſſembly.

The committee for bills appointed to meet to-morrow morning, at half paſt ten o'clock, at deſire of the Moderator of that committee.

Adjournment.

*May* 31. 1782. *Seſſ.* 8*th.*

Sederunt.

The report of the committee for bills called for, produced, and read.

The committee on the overture from the ſynod of Moray appointed to give in their report to the Commiſſion of this Aſſembly, which is authoriſed to take in and conſider ſaid report, and do therein as they ſhall ſee cauſe.

An appeal of James M'Intoſh in Garbit, and others, heritors, elders, and heads of families, of the united pariſhes of Moy and Dalaroſſie, againſt a ſentence of the preſbytery of Inverneſs, refuſing to give effect to a former ſentence of depoſition of Mr James M'Intoſh, miniſter of theſe pariſhes, in reſpect the ſame had been appealed by him to the ſynod of Moray, and neither reverſed nor affirmed by them, heard; the appeal diſmiſſed as inept; and the ſynod of Moray ſpecially enjoined to judge finally in the appeal from the ſentence of depoſition of Mr M'Intoſh, and to bring up their ſynod books, and all the original minutes relating to this whole affair, to next General Aſſembly, with certification; and recommended to the preſbytery of Inverneſs, in the mean time, to take care that the ordinances of religion be diſpenſed to the pariſhes of Moy and Dalaroſſie.

An appeal of Alexander Gordon of Culvennan and Greenlaw, Eſq; patron of the kirk and pariſh of Croſsmichael, againſt a ſentence of the preſbytery of Kirkcudbright, delaying the ſettlement of Mr John Johnſton, Mr Gordon's preſentee to that pariſh; alſo an appeal of Mr James Murdoch, preacher of the goſpel, preſented by the Crown to ſaid pariſh, heard; remitted the cauſe to the preſbytery of Kirkcudbright, and appointed them, in caſe the competition in the

civil

civil court ſhall not be determined by the twelfth day of Auguſt next, to proceed towards the ſettlement of Mr John Johnſton, Mr Gordon's preſentee, according to the rules of the Church, with all convenient ſpeed; and, in the mean time, to go on with the previous ſteps: The preſbytery of Kirkcudbright expreſsly prohibited from excluding from judging thoſe members of their committee who moderated in the call to the ſaid preſentee.

At reading the minutes of laſt ſederunt, upon a motion, agreed, that the reſolution of laſt ſederunt, reſpecting the moderation of calls, ſhould, for the ſatisfaction of all concerned, be converted into a declaratory act, and printed among the Acts of Aſſembly. *Vide Printed Acts.*

The committee on the window and houſe tax to meet on Monday next at half paſt ten in the Exchange Coffee-houſe.

The cauſe of Mr James Lawſon referred to the Commiſſion.

Adjournment.

*June* 1. 1782. *Seſſ.* 9.

Sederunt.

Mr Lawſon's cauſe appointed to be firſt taken up, and conſidered by the Commiſſion.

Act approving of the account of Mr William Robertſon advocate, Procurator for the Church, and exonering and diſcharging Mr Robertſon of the ſum received by him; and appointing that he debit himſelf in his next account with the ſum of L. 64 : 4 : $9\frac{10}{11}$ Sterling, being the balance due by him.

Act approving of the account of Mr George Cairncroſs, agent for the Church; and appointing that he debit himſelf in his next account with the ſum of L. 6 : 13 : 7 Sterling, being the balance due by him.

The account due by the clerks to Mr John Balfour and Co. ſtationers ordered to be paid.

The report of the committee named to conſider the applications for ſhares of the public money given in and read, and approved of by the Aſſembly. The Procurator authoriſed to pay off the debt due to Mr George Trail, before he pay any of the other creditors.

tors. All the new applications refuſed *in hoc ſtatu*, on account of the ſituation of the funds; and likewiſe, that none of them have been made in proper time, agreeable to act of Aſſembly 4th June 1763, leaving to thoſe gentlemen to apply again, when the fund will admit of giving them aid if at the time their ſituations require aid. Reſolved, that for the future, the Aſſembly will adhere ſtrictly to the foreſaid act of Aſſembly reſpecting all new applications.

Upon a motion by a member of the committee appointed to conſider the ſtate of the Church's public money, and which was unanimouſly agreed to, the Moderator, in name of the Aſſembly, roſe up to return their ſincere thanks to Mr Ludovick Grant junior, writer in Edinburgh, for the care and attention he had paid to theſe funds for ſeveral years paſt; and earneſtly to entreat him to perſevere in his diligence and attention to that affair; but Mr Grant not being in the Houſe, reſolved to return thanks to Mr Grant when he ſhould be preſent.

Act authoriſing the Procurator to upliſt and diſcharge certain ſums of money from the Society for propagating Chriſtian Knowledge, which had been put into the hands of their treaſurer, to be paid when demanded by the Aſſembly.

Act authoriſing the Procurator to upliſt and diſcharge what balance may be due by Mr John Gray clerk to ſignet, and Mr Henry Davidſon ſolicitor in London, of the ſum of L. 110, put into their hands by the late Procurator, for the purpoſe of defending the preſbytery of Biggar, in a proceſs brought againſt them by the late Dr Dickſon of Kilbucho.

The report of the truſtees of the widows fund produced, and ordered to lie on the table for the peruſal of members. The thanks of the Houſe given to Dr Webſter by the Moderator, in name of the Aſſembly, for his care and attention to the ſaid fund.

The report of the committee appointed to conſider the petition for the people of Noriſton called for, given in, and read, and approven of by the Aſſembly.

The report of the viſitors of the Royal Bounty Regiſter called for, the conduct of the managers approved of, and their book ordered to be atteſted.

Committee

Committee named for managing the Royal Bounty this year, with a commiſſion and inſtructions to them.

The report of the viſitors of the ſynod-book of Fife called for, given in, and read. The Aſſembly refuſe to atteſt it, on account of the remarks of the committee; and recommend to the ſynod to ſend up their book corrected to next Aſſembly.

The ſynod-books of Roſs and Aberdeen ordered to be atteſted.

The window and houſe tax committee appointed to meet in the Aſſembly-houſe, at half paſt ten on Monday, in place of the Exchange Coffee-houſe.

The memorial and petition for the Society for propagating Chriſtian Knowledge read, and ordered to lie on the table.

The report on the memorial anent the hoſpital of Perth called for, given in, and read, and unanimouſly approven of by the Aſſembly.

A reference from the ſynod of Fife, anent the Chapel of Eaſe in Dunfermline, heard. The Aſſembly agree in declaring, *&c.* that it is implied in the 5th clauſe of the regulations reſpecting ſaid Chapel, that the perſons who form the congregation at the Chapel are ſubject to the juriſdiction of the kirk-ſeſſion of Dunfermline; and, in purſuance of the true meaning of that clauſe, it is hereby provided, That the miniſter of the Chapel of Eaſe ſhall regularly intimate to the ſeſſion-clerk of Dunfermline the time of his adminiſtering the ſacrament of the Lord's Supper three weeks before it: That the ſeſſion-clerk ſhall, within the ſpace of eight days thereafter, tranſmit to him a liſt of thoſe pariſhioners who are under ſcandal; and that the miniſter of the Chapel ſhall be at liberty to give tokens, for admiſſion to the Lord's Supper, to ſuch of his congregation as he judges worthy of being received to that ordinance, excepting only the perſons contained in that liſt. The ſeſſion-clerk is further ordained to tranſmit to the miniſter of the Chapel, from time to time during the year, the name of every perſon who falls under ſcandal, and who is abſolved from it: And the miniſter of the Chapel is at liberty to baptize the children of any perſon belonging to his congregation, who does not appear to be under ſcandal.

Proceeded to conſider the overture anent licenſing probationers; and, after reaſoning, enacted the ſame into a ſtanding law of this Church, to be publiſhed and and printed among the Acts of Aſſembly.—*Vide Printed Acts.*—Againſt which enactment three members diſſented.

Adjournment.

*June* 3. 1781. *Seſſ. ult.*

Sederunt.

A new commiſſion produced.

The account of Mr James James Dickſon, printer for the Church, ordered to be paid.

The report of the committee on the window and houſe taxes given in and read, and unanimouſly approven of by the Aſſembly; agreed that the Moderator ſhould write letters of thanks, in the Aſſembly's name, to the Firſt Lord of the Treaſury, the Chancellor of Exchequer, and the Lord Advocate for Scotland; and, at the Aſſembly's deſire, the Moderator alſo returned thanks to Dr Carlyle, for his attention and diligence in this matter.

Reaſons of diſſent againſt the enactment of the overture anent licenſing probationers given in and openly read, and ordered to lie *in retentis*.

The report of the committee appointed by laſt General Aſſembly, to conſider regulations propoſed by the preſbytery of Edinburgh for correcting ſome abuſes complained of in the ſolemnization of marriages, given in and read: The Aſſembly approved of the report, and, agreeably thereto, did, and hereby do, enjoin a ſtrict obſervance of ſaid regulations.

## REGULATIONS.

1*mo*, That no marriage ſhall be celebrated, unleſs when there ſhall be produced to the miniſtier a certificate, ſubſcribed by the precentor or ſeſſion-clerk, that the banns have been proclaimed; and every certificate muſt bear not only the names, but deſignations and places of abode of the ſeveral parties.

2*do*, When the parties reſide in two different pariſhes, there muſt be produced a certificate from the precentor,

centor, or seſſion-clerk, of each pariſh that the banns have been proclaimed in each pariſh church.

3*tio*, Until perſons have reſided for the ſpace of ſix weeks complete within a pariſh, they are not to be conſidered as reſidenters, nor entitled to proclamation in the church thereof, but muſt be proclaimed in the church of the pariſh where their ordinary reſidence was previous to their propoſed marriage.

4*to*, No precentor, or ſeſſion-clerk, ſhall grant a certificate of proclamation in behalf of any parties, unleſs he can atteſt upon proper evidence, *for which he ſhall be anſwerable* that they have reſided for the ſpace of ſix weeks within the pariſh; that they are unmarried perſons, and not within the forbidden degrees of conſanguinity.

5*to*, The certificates of proclamation ſhall be in the following terms:

FORM I. For two parties reſiding in one pariſh.

*That* (here inſert his name, deſignation, and place of abode), *and* —— ——, *daughter of* —— ——, *have reſided in this pariſh for ſix weeks preceding the commencement of the proclamation; that they are unmarried perſons, and not within the forbidden degrees of conſanguinity, has been certified to me, upon ſatisfying evidence, for which I ſhall be anſwerable; and that the above parties have been proclaimed in order to marriage, and no objections offered, is atteſted by* —— ——.

FORM II. Where one of the parties only reſide in the pariſh.

*That* (here inſert the bridegroom's name, deſignation, and place of abode), *has reſided within this pariſh for the ſpace of ſix weeks preceding the date hereof; and that he is an unmarried perſon has been certified to me, upon ſatisfying evidence, for which I ſhall be anſwerable; and that he and* —— ——, *daughter to* —— ——, *of the pariſh of* ——, *have been regularly proclaimed in order to marriage, and no objection offered, is atteſted by* —— ——.

N. B. The above form, *mutatis mutandis*, to be uſed when the bride only reſides in the pariſh.

6*to*,

*6to*, The miniſters of the preſbytery of Edinburgh agree, that in future they will celebrate no marriage, except when the preceding regulations are ſtrictly complied with; and the preſbytery enacts and ordains accordingly.

The preſbytery alſo appoints a copy of theſe regulations to be ſent to all the miniſters of the communion of the Church of Scotland, whoſe ordinary reſidence is within their bounds, with a letter from their clerk, requiring that they likewiſe ſhall comply with theſe regulations.

The preſbytery farther appoints a copy of them to be tranſmitted by their clerk to every kirk-ſeſſion within their bounds, in order to their being inſerted in the ſeſſion-books; and the ſeveral kirk-ſeſſions are hereby ordained to ſee them ſtrictly carried into execution; and as irregularities have been chiefly complained of in the city of Edinburgh and ſuburbs thereof, the miniſters of Edinburgh, and of the pariſhes immediately adjacent, are enjoined to be particularly attentive that their reſpective ſeſſion-clerks do, in all reſpects, comply with the preceding regulations.

And, *laſtly*, the preſbytery ordains a copy of theſe regulations to be inſerted in the ſeveral Edinburgh newſpapers, for the information of the public.

The report of the committee on erecting new pariſhes in the Highlands and Iſlands given in and read. The committee continued, with additions thereto.

A petition for the Society for propagating Chriſtian Knowledge, craving a collection for the purpoſe of defraying the expence of tranſlating and printing the Bible in the Gaelic language, heard; and a collection through all the pariſhes in Scotland ordered by the Aſſembly.

The report of the viſitors of the Commiſſion record given in and read, and the Commiſſion's conduct approven: The Aſſembly's thanks given from the chair to the Moderator of the Commiſſion for their faithfulneſs and diligence in the affairs committed to them; and their book ordered to be atteſted.

The report of the committee for naming the members of the Commiſſion, and preparing inſtructions for them, given in and approved of.

The

The report of the truſtees for managing the fund for a proviſion to miniſters widows, &c. containing a ſtate of the fund under their management, and an account of their proceedings ſince laſt Aſſembly, again called for, and ordered to be recorded in the ſeparate regiſter kept for that purpoſe.

Liſt of probationers produced, and ordered to be recorded.

All cauſes before this Aſſembly, and not determined by them, and cauſes remitted by former Aſſemblies, and not determined, referred to the Commiſſion, with power to them to judge and finally determine therein.

Proteſtations admitted.

A committee named to reviſe the minutes of the Aſſembly's proceedings, at this and all the other diets thereof, and to pitch upon ſuch of the acts of Aſſembly as are to be ſtanding rules, in order to their being printed.

The minutes of this day's ſederunt were read; the minutes of former ſederunts being read at the diets ſubſequent thereto.

The Moderator's ſpeech to the General Aſſembly and his Majeſty's Commiſſioner.

The Lord Commiſſioner's ſpeech to the Aſſembly.

Act appointing next diet of Aſſembly.

The Aſſembly concluded with prayer and ſinging a pſalm.

[*Omitted, in the Index to the laſt year's printed Acts, the following part of an Overture from the ſynod of Perth and Stirling.*]

WHEREAS the receiving extra-judicial papers into the proceedings of ſuperior judicatories, and founding deciſions upon them, is highly irregular, injurious to the rights of inferior courts, and of dangerous conſequence to the intereſts of individuals, and particularly the admitting private letters of non-reſiding heritors and others, never before the inferior judicatory, and ſuſtaining the ſame, in place of a call regularly authenticated, is directly contrary to the rules of this Church, confirmed by immemorial practice, of fatal tendency to the intereſts of religion, and derogatory to the authority of preſbyteries, who have, in the firſt inſtance, the only right of judging in the ſettlement of vacant pariſhes: For remedying and preventing theſe abuſes, the ſynod of Perth and Stirling humbly overture to the General Aſſembly, that, in conformity to the fundamental conſtitution of this Church, they will be pleaſed to reſolve and enjoin, that no papers or evidence whatever, not offered to the inferior court, ſhall be received at diſcuſſing any appeal or complaint; but that, when any new matter or evidence occurs which the parties judge of importance, the cauſe ſhall be remitted to the inferior court. The Aſſembly finding this part of the overture unneceſſary, as what it propoſes is already ſufficiently ſecured by the ſtanding rules of the Church, agreed to diſmiſs it; and did, and hereby do, diſmiſs it accordingly.